

energy independence that are relevant to the security threats we face today; and, fifth, pursue alternatives to war, exhausting every conceivable diplomatic channel before resorting to armed conflict.

Finally, let me note the ironies of the President's deal with India. On the one hand, here we are feeding the nuclear appetite of a nation that has failed to show the responsibility expected of a nuclear state. On the other hand, we have sacrifice 2,300 Americans and \$250 billion on a war that was launched because of nuclear weapons that never existed.

□ 1415

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING AMERICA'S FALLEN IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, March 18 will mark the 3-year anniversary of America's involvement in Iraq. Two thousand two hundred ninety-six American military personnel have now given their lives fighting in Iraq. Two hundred seventy-seven Americans have also fallen in the line of duty in Afghanistan.

We owe these great men and women and their families a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

Last year I led a bipartisan group of 21 Members of Congress in reading the names of the fallen into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. We made a commitment to continue to read the names of our fellow citizens as long as the fighting continues.

In the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, each of those heroes stands on the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live and grow and increase in its blessings.

God bless and keep each of the brave Americans whose memory we honor today:

1st Lieutenant Robert C. Oneto-Sikorski

Private 1st Class David J. Martin  
Sergeant 1st Class Jonathan Tessar  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Allan M. Espiritu

Sergeant Daniel A. Tsue  
Private 1st Class Tyler R. MacKenzie  
Specialist Benjamin A. Smith  
Specialist Joshua J. Munger  
2nd Lieutenant Mark J. Procopio  
Specialist Dennis J. Ferdner Jr.  
Captain Michael D. Martino  
Major Gerald M. Bloomfield II  
Major Jeffrey P. Toczykowski  
Specialist Darren D. Howe  
Sergeant 1st Class Daniel J. Pratt  
Staff Sergeant Kyle B. Wehrly  
Gunnery Sergeant Darrell W. Boatman

Private 1st Class Dustin A. Yancey  
Captain James M. Gurbisz  
Specialist Timothy D. Brown  
Staff Sergeant Jason A. Fegler  
Lieutenant Colonel Thomas A. Wren  
Sergeant 1st Class James F. Hayes  
Captain Joel E. Cahill  
Lance Corporal Ryan J. Sorensen  
Private 1st Class Mario A. Reyes  
Specialist Robert C. Pope II  
Staff Sergeant Brian L. Freeman  
1st Lieutenant Justin S. Smith  
Sergeant 1st Class Alwyn C. "Al" Cashe

Lance Corporal Jeremy P. Tamburello

Lance Corporal Daniel Freeman Swaim

Sergeant Joshua A. Terando  
Staff Sergeant Michael C. Parrott  
Sergeant Tyrone L. Chisholm  
Private 1st Class Antonio Mendez Sanchez

Corporal Donald E. Fisher II  
Staff Sergeant Stephen J. Sutherland  
Lance Corporal David A. Mendez Ruiz  
Lance Corporal Scott A. Zubowski  
Corporal John M. Longoria  
Lance Corporal Christopher M. McCrackin

Major Ramon J. Mendoza Jr.  
Lance Corporal Nickolas David Schiavoni

Private 1st Class Travis J. Grigg  
Specialist Matthew J. Holley  
Staff Sergeant James E. Estep  
Private Dylan R. Paytas  
Sergeant Jeremy E. Murray  
Specialist Alexis Roman-Cruz  
Corporal Joshua J. Ware  
Corporal Jeffry A. Rogers  
Lance Corporal Roger W. Deeds  
Lance Corporal John A. "JT" Lucente

2nd Lieutenant Donald R. McGlothlin  
Specialist Vernon R. Widner  
Staff Sergeant Ivan Vargas Alarcon  
Sergeant Luis R. Reyes  
Private 1st Class Anthony Gaunky  
Private Christopher M. Alcozer  
Lance Corporal Tyler J. Troyer  
Lance Corporal Miguel Terrazas  
Specialist Michael J. Idanan  
Specialist Dominic Joseph Hinton  
Corporal Jonathan F. Blair  
Staff Sergeant Edward Karolasz  
1st Lieutenant Dennis W. Zilinski  
Master Sergeant Anthony R. C. Yost

Sergeant Dominic J. Sacco  
Private 1st Class John Wilson Dearing  
Sergeant Denis J. Gallardo  
Specialist Allen J. Knop  
Sergeant William B. Meeuwssen  
Staff Sergeant Aram J. Bass  
Private 1st Class Ryan D. Christensen.

Mr. Speaker, President Abraham Lincoln once wrote to the mother of five fallen soldiers, "I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

I would also like to thank the brave men and women who continue to serve our Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and throughout the world and serve with distinction.

Our thoughts, prayers and gratitude are with you and your families at this time until they return home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McCOTTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DINGELL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE OFFICIAL TRUTH SQUAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity given to me by the leadership and by the Republican Conference to come and share a few words this afternoon. This is something that we call the Official Truth Squad, and we have been coming to the floor of the House almost every day that we have been in session this year.

We who have organized it are the freshman class. There are about 25, 26 members of the Republican freshman class. We are the new folks on the block. We have been in Congress now for about 14 months. And one of the things that disturbed us so, being here, was the tone of the debate, was the level of incredible partisanship, the remarkable and distasteful distortion of facts, the personal attacks, some of which we have heard within the past 30 minutes. The hyperbole and the disinformation and the misinformation that goes on here in Washington seems to be kind of the order of the day.

What we thought we might be able to do to contribute to kind of raising the level of the rhetoric and the tone is to develop what we call the Official Truth Squad. And our effort and our desire is to try to bring a positive view of America, a truthful view of America, point out some of the wonderful and great things that go on in our Nation and that our citizens are involved in. Because truth is incredibly important to public debate.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, if are you not dealing with truth in the area of public policy, you cannot reach the right solution, you just cannot get to the right end point. That is what is so disheartening about much of the debate that goes on here. And I say that in all sincerity, understanding, as I know my constituents do, that these are not Republican problems or Democrat problems, these are American challenges that all of us face. So truth is so incredibly important.

In my former life, I was a physician, and I knew that if I did not have truthful, accurate information going in to take care of a patient, that I could not make the right diagnosis. If somehow the information was distorted or not accurate, then it just was not possible to get to the right diagnosis.

The same is true in the public policy arena. If we are not talking about truthful items, then it just becomes that much more difficult to reach ap-

propriate conclusions. I know that when I go home and talk to my constituents. They say, do you not get tired of all of that negativity up there? And I do. And I know that you do too, Mr. Speaker.

But that is why our goal is to try to put a little positive spin on exactly what is happening here in Washington and present to the American public an optimistic view of where we are.

And we have in the Official Truth Squad many quotes that we are fond of. One of the ones I am most fond of is one from former New York U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He says, "Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts." Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but not their own facts.

And it really is so true about much of the debate that goes on here in Washington. Because with many people, everybody obviously has their opinions. But oftentimes they are not supported by facts. And we have heard recently some incredible accusations given about, for example, the Dubai Ports deal.

Now, I am not certain that I support that at all, but I do know that unless you are dealing with truth and with fact, you cannot reach the right conclusion. And one of the things that has come to the floor is this huge accusation that there just has not been any money for port security, that Congress has been delinquent, that the White House has been delinquent, that they are not even paying attention to what is happening at the ports.

Well, here are the facts. Here are the facts. Port security funding in 2001, prior to 9/11, was at a level of about \$250 million. \$250 million. Fiscal year 2006, port security nearly \$3 billion. Nearly \$3 billion. The request for 2007, over \$3.5 billion.

So when you look at the facts, they do not back up the rhetoric of so many individuals who are obviously playing politics. And you cannot take the politics out of politics, I understand that. But it is important that we talk about truth. It is important that we talk about real numbers when we are trying to get to solutions to these incredible challenges that we have before us.

So there are the facts on port security funding. Almost a 700 percent increase since 9/11. Mr. Speaker, that certainly is not inattentiveness to port security funding.

We have also heard recently about the "cuts" in certain budgetary items; and the other side is fond of saying that there are cuts in Medicare and cuts in education. And so what I would like to do today is just share very briefly with folks what the actual facts are, what the truth is.

This is Medicare funding. This is Medicare spending from 1995 to 2005. These are not my numbers, these are Treasury, budget office of the U.S. Government: 1995, \$156.9 billion; 2000, \$187 billion; 2005, \$294 billion.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not know where you went to school, but I do not

think that they would call moving from \$187 billion to \$294 billion a "cut." It is simply not. And so when people describe it as such, then all they are doing is playing on the fear of the American public. And that does a disservice to the debate. It is dishonest. It does not help get us to the right conclusion. Medicare spending every single year has increased.

Education spending: Many are fond of saying that the amount of money spent on education over the past 5 years has been cut. You have heard them say that. I heard them say that. I always shake my head when I hear it, because if you look at the facts, if you look at the truth, what we have here is total education spending since the year 2000 to 2005 has grown, on average, 9.1 percent each year over the past 5 years.

Those are the facts. That is the truth.

So when you hear people talk about the kind of allegations that they have regarding decreases to, cuts in spending, it simply is not so. What they are talking about it a decrease in the increase; only in Washington is that described as a "cut."

So it is important that we talk about truthful things. It is important we talk about facts, important that we agree on those items before we get to the solution to the remarkable challenges that we have.

Today we are going to talk a little bit about the economy. And if you were just getting your information from the major media markets, the major television stations and the networks, or the major newspapers across this Nation, you might not appreciate that the economy is ticking along pretty dog-gone well. And so we are going to bring some information today, some facts, some truth about the economy, that we hope will be helpful to the debate and also helpful information for the American public.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined today by many of my colleagues, and initially, Congresswoman SHELLY MOORE CAPITO from West Virginia. Congresswoman CAPITO is a veteran here compared to us freshmen. She is from West Virginia and has been a real leader in the area of our economy, and a real leader in the area of health care, has been working actively to make certain that health care costs do not continue to skyrocket because they play into our economy to a great degree.

So I am so pleased that you are able to join us. I yield to you and look forward to your comments.

□ 1430

Mrs. CAPITO. I would like to thank my colleague from Georgia for his leadership on so many issues, but also on his leadership of the Official Truth Squad.

I think one of the things that I find when I go back to my home district is people do not get what the real truth is. The way we debate here in Congress, it is almost who can besmirch somebody's character. Who can besmirch